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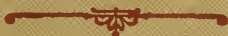






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## LIFE OF IRVING.

WASHINGTON IRVING, one of the earliest and most popular of American authors, and of whom Thackeray happily spoke as "the first ambassador whom the New World of Letters sent to the Old," was born in New York City, in 1783. He received only a common-school education, leaving the school-room at sixteen, yet for many years afterward pursued a systematic course of reading of the standard authors, especially Chaucer, Spenser, and Bunyan. In his boyhood days he seemed to have a natural talent for writing essays and stories. As he always detested mathematics, he often wrote compositions for his school-mates, and they in turn worked out his problems for him. He studied law for a time, but not being inclined to submit to the drudgery of a profession, preferred to employ himself in rambling excursions around Manhattan Island, by which he became familiar with the beautiful scenery which he afterward made famous by his pen. Thus he acquired that minute knowledge of various historical locations, curious traditions, and legends, so beautifully made use of in his *Sketch-Book* and *History of New York*. In 1804, being threatened with pulmonary disease, he sailed for Europe, and remained abroad for nearly two years. On his return, he undertook to resume his legal practice, but without success. In company with others, he began the publication of a serial called "Salmagundi." It was well conducted, and proved successful. In 1809 he published his *Knickerbocker's History of New York*, "the most unique, perfectly rounded, and elaborately sustained burlesque in our literature." He conducted a magazine in Philadelphia for two years, to which he contributed articles afterward included in the *Sketch-Book*. In 1814 he served as an aid to Governor Tompkins, and at the end of the war again went to Europe, where he continued to live for the next seventeen years. By the failure of his brother he lost all his property, and having been thus thrown upon his own resources, he devoted himself to literature to earn a living. His *Sketch-Book* was published in 1819. By the personal influence of Sir Walter Scott it was republished in London, and at once established Irving's reputation as a great author.

His next works were *Bracebridge Hall*, published in 1822, and *Tales of a Traveler*, in 1824. Having been commissioned to make some translations from the Spanish, he took up his residence in Madrid. To this residence in Spain we are indebted for some of his most charming works, as, *Life of Columbus*, *Conquest of Granada*, *The Alhambra*, *Mahomet and his Successors*, and *Spanish Papers*. He returned to America in 1832. During the next ten years were published *Astoria*, *Adventures of Captain Bonneville*, and *Wolfert's Roost*. In 1842 Irving was appointed Minister to Spain. His *Life of Goldsmith* was published four years later, after his return home. His last and most carefully written work was the *Life of Washington*, in five volumes.

Irving's last years were passed at "Sunnyside," his delightful residence at Tarrytown, on the Hudson, in the midst of the beautiful scenes which he has immortalized. Irving died November 28, 1859, the same year with Prescott, the historian, and Macaulay. A friend who saw much of our author in his latter days thus describes him: "He had dark gray eyes, a handsome straight nose, which might perhaps be called large; a broad, high, full forehead, and a small mouth. I should call him of medium height, about five feet and nine inches, and inclined to be a trifle stout. His smile was exceedingly genial, lightening up his whole face, and rendering it very attractive; while if he were about to say anything humorous, it would beam forth from his eyes even before his words were spoken."

In one of his charming "Easy Chair" essays, George William Curtis says: "Irving was as quaint a figure as the Diedrich Knickerbocker in the preliminary advertisement of the *History of New York*. Thirty years ago he might have been seen on an autumnal afternoon, tripping with an elastic step along Broadway, with low quartered shoes neatly tied, and a Talma cloak—a short garment like the cape of a coat. There was a chirping, cheery, old-school air in his appearance which was undeniably Dutch, and most harmonious with the association of his writing. He seemed, indeed, to have stepped out of his own books; and the cordial grace and humor of his address, if he stopped for a passing chat, were delightfully characteristic. He was then our most famous man of letters, but he was simply free from all self-consciousness and assumption and dogmatism."

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NOTE.—Through the courtesy of G. P. Putnam's Sons, the authorized publishers of Irving's complete works, the editor has been allowed to use the text of their standard edition of the *Life and Voyages of Columbus*.

## WASHINGTON IRVING. 1783—1859.

"Washington Irving! Why, gentlemen, I don't go upstairs to bed two nights out of the seven without taking Washington Irving under my arm."—*Charles Dickens.*

"I know of no books which are oftener lent than those that bear the pseudonym of 'Geoffrey Crayon.' Few, very few, can show a long succession so pure, so graceful, and so varied, as Mr. Irving."—*Mary Russell Mitford.*

"Rich and original humor, great refinement of feeling and delicacy of sentiment. Style accurately finished, easy, and transparent. Accurate observer: his descriptions are correct, animated, and beautiful."—*George S. Hillard.*

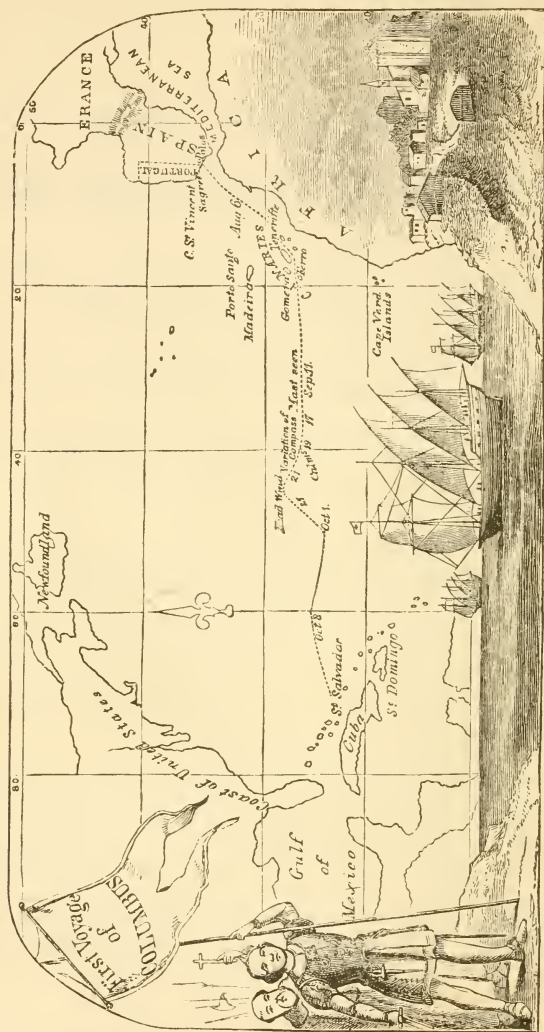
"If he wishes to study a style which possesses the characteristic beauties of Addison's, its ease, simplicity, and elegance, with greater accuracy, point, and spirit, let him give his days and nights to the volumes of Irving."—*Edward Everett's Advice to a Student.*

"He seems to have been born with a rare sense of literary proportion and form; into this, as into a mold, were run his apparently lazy and really acute observations of life. That he thoroughly mastered such literature as he fancied there is abundant evidence; that his style was influenced by the purest English models is also apparent. But there remains a large margin for wonder how, with his want of training, he could have elaborated a style which is distinctly his own, and is as copious, felicitous in the choice of words, flowing, spontaneous, flexible, engaging, clear, and as little wearisome when read continuously in quantity as any in the English tongue."—*C. D. Warner.*

"In his family, gentle, generous, good-humored, affectionate, self-denying; in society, a delightful example of complete gentlemanhood; quite unspoiled by prosperity; never obsequious to the great; eager to acknowledge every contemporary's merit; always kind and affable with the young members of his calling; in his professional bargains and mercantile dealings delicately honest and grateful. He was, at the same time, one of the most charming masters of our lighter language; the constant friend to us and our nation; to men of letters doubly dear, not for his wit and genius merely, but as an exemplar of goodness, probity, and a pure life."—*Wm. M. Thackeray.*

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NOTE.—This volume contains a condensed account of the first voyage of Columbus, in Irving's own words. The condensation has been possible by a simple and judicious examination of details unimportant to the narrative.





# CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

## CHAPTER I.

### BIRTH, PARENTAGE, AND EARLY LIFE OF COLUMBUS.

**To the Teacher.**—Instead of defining the difficult words used only in their dictionary meaning, it has been thought better to group them, for special study, at the end of each chapter.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, or Colombo, as the name is written in Italian, was born in the city of Genoa, about the year 1435. He was the son of Dominico Colombo, a wool-comber, and it would seem that his ancestors had followed the same handicraft for several generations in Genoa. Attempts have been made to prove him of illustrious descent, and several noble houses have laid claim to him since his name has become so renowned as to confer rather than receive distinction. The fact, however, is not material to his fame; and it is a higher proof of merit to be the object of contention among various noble families than to be able to substantiate the most illustrious lineage. His son Fernando had a true feeling on the subject. "I am of opinion," says he, "that I should derive



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

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1. **Columbus.**—Latin form of Colombo. Columbus Latinized his name in his letters according to the usage of the time, when Latin was the language of learned correspondence.

2. **Gen'o-a.**—An Italian sea-port town.

3. **Dominico** (dom-i-nee'co) Co-lum'-bo.

8. **Illustrious descent.**—*Meaning of?*

less dignity from any nobility of ancestry than from being the  
 20 son of such a father."

At a very early age Columbus evinced a decided inclination  
 for the sea ; his education, therefore, was mainly directed to fit  
 him for maritime life, but was as general as the narrow means  
 of his father would permit. Besides the ordinary branches of  
 25 reading, writing, grammar, and arithmetic, he was instructed in  
 the Latin tongue, and made some proficiency in drawing and  
 design. For a short time, also, he was sent to the university  
 of Pavia, where he studied geometry, geography, astronomy, and  
 navigation. He then returned to Genoa, where, according to a  
 30 contemporary historian, he assisted his father in his trade of  
 wool-combing. He could not, however, have remained long in  
 this employment, as, according to his own account, he entered  
 upon a nautical life when but fourteen years of age.

The nautical propensity evinced by Columbus in early life is  
 35 common to boys of enterprising spirit and lively imagination  
 brought up in maritime cities ; to whom the sea is the high-  
 road to adventure and the region of romance. Genoa, too,  
 walled in and straitened on the land side by rugged mountains,  
 yielded but little scope for enterprise on shore, while an opulent  
 40 and widely extended commerce, visiting every country, and a  
 roving marine, battling in every sea, naturally led forth her  
 children upon the waves, as their propitious element.

The strong passion for geographical knowledge, also, felt by  
 Columbus in early life, and which inspired his after-career, was  
 45 incident to the age in which he lived. Geographical discovery  
 was the brilliant path of light which was forever to distinguish  
 the fifteenth century.

The short time passed by him at the university of Pavia  
 was barely sufficient to give him the rudiments of the necessary  
 50 sciences ; the familiar acquaintance with them which he evinced

28. Pavia (pä-vee'ä).—A city in  
 Northern Italy.

41. Marine.—Navy.

45. Age.—*Meaning of?*

46. Path of light. — *Why so  
 called?*

in after-life must have been the result of diligent self-schooling, in casual hours of study amid the cares and vicissitudes of a rugged and wandering life. He was one of those men of strong natural genius who, from having to contend at their very outset with privations and impediments, acquire an intrepidity in encountering and a facility in vanquishing difficulties, throughout their career. Such men learn to effect great purposes with small means, supplying this deficiency by the resources of their own energy and invention. This, from his earliest commencement, throughout the whole of his life, was one of the remarkable features in the history of Columbus. In every undertaking, the scantiness and apparent insufficiency of his means enhance the grandeur of his achievements.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Lineage.	Propensity.	Inspired.	Encountering.
Evinced.	Enterprising.	Rudiments.	Facility.
Maritime.	Straitened.	Casual.	Vanquishing.
Proficiency.	Scope.	Vicissitudes.	Deficiency.
Contemporary.	Opulent.	Impediments.	Scantiness.
Nautical.	Propitious.	Intrepidity.	Enhance.

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## CHAPTER II.

### EARLY VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS—DISCOVERY UNDER PRINCE HENRY OF PORTUGAL.

COLUMBUS, as has been observed, commenced his nautical career when about fourteen years of age. His first voyages were made with a distant relative named Colombo, a hardy veteran of the seas, who had risen to some distinction by his bravery, and is occasionally mentioned in old chronicles ; sometimes as commanding a squadron of his own, sometimes as an admiral in the Genoese service. He appears to have been bold and adventurous ; ready to fight in any cause, and to seek quarrel wherever it might lawfully be found.

During an interval of many years we have but one or two

shadowy traces of Columbus. He is supposed to have been principally engaged on the Mediterranean and up the Levant; sometimes in commercial voyages; sometimes in the warlike contests between the Italian states; sometimes in pious and predatory expeditions against the Infidels.

The career of modern discovery had commenced shortly before the time of Columbus, and at the period of which we are treating was prosecuted with great activity by Portugal.

The grand impulse to discovery was not given by chance, but was the deeply meditated effort of one master-mind. This was Prince Henry of Portugal. The character of this illustrious man, from whose enterprises the genius of Columbus took excitement, deserves particular mention.

Having accompanied his father into Africa, in an expedition against the Moors, he received much information concerning the coast of Guinea, and other regions in the interior, hitherto unknown to Europeans, and conceived an idea that important discoveries were to be made by navigating along the western coast of Africa. On returning to Portugal, this idea became his ruling thought. To settle this question was an object worthy the ambition of a prince, and his mind was fired with the idea of the vast benefits that would arise to his country should it be accomplished by Portuguese enterprise.

For a long time the merchandise of India was conveyed by the Gulf of Persia, the Euphrates, the Indus, and the Oxus, to the Caspian and the Mediterranean seas; thence to take a new destination for the various marts of Europe.

12. *Le-vent'*.—The Orient. Especially the countries of Turkey, Syria, Asia Minor, Egypt, etc.

14. *Italian states*.—Ven'ice, Florence, Genoa, Nā'ples, Sicily, Parma, etc.

15. *Infidels*.—The Mo-ham'medans.

18. *Portugal*.—Where situated?

22. *Took excitement*.—Meaning of?

25. *Moors*.—Inhabitants of the northern coast of Africa.

26. *Guinea* (gin'e).—A country in Western Africa.

34-36. *India, Gulf of Persia, the Euphrates, the Indus, the Caspian, and the Mediterranean seas*.—Locate these on the map.

It was the grand idea of Prince Henry, by circumnavigating Africa to open a direct and easy route to the source of this commerce, to turn it in a golden tide upon his country. He was, <sup>40</sup> however, before the age in thought, and had to counteract ignorance and prejudice, and to endure the delays to which vivid and penetrating minds are subjected, from the tardy co-operations of the dull and the doubtful. The navigation of the Atlantic was yet in its infancy. Mariners looked with distrust upon a bois- <sup>45</sup> terous expanse, which appeared to have no opposite shore, and feared to venture out of sight of the landmarks. Every bold headland and far-stretching promontory was a wall to bar their progress. They crept timorously along the Barbary shores, and thought they had accomplished a wonderful expedition <sup>50</sup> when they had ventured a few degrees beyond the Straits of Gibraltar.

Independent of these vague fears, they had others, sanctioned by philosophy itself. They still thought that the earth, at the equator, was girdled by a torrid zone, over which the sun held <sup>55</sup> his vertical and fiery course, separating the hemispheres by a region of impassive heat. They fancied Cape Bojador the utmost boundary of secure enterprise, and had a superstitious belief that whoever doubled it would never return. They looked with dismay upon the rapid currents of its neighborhood, and <sup>60</sup> the furious surf which beats upon its arid coast. They imagined that beyond it lay the frightful region of the torrid zone, scorched by a blazing sun; a region of fire, where the very waves which beat upon the shores boiled under the intolerable fervor of the heavens. 65

To dispel these errors, and to give a scope to navigation equal

45. In its infancy.—*Meaning of?*

49. Barbary shores. — Northern coast of Africa.

51. Degrees.—*What is the length of a degree at the equator?*—Straits of Gibraltar.—*Locate.*

53. Vague fears.—*Meaning of?*

55. Zone.—Literally, a belt.

56. Vertical course. — Following the equator.

57. Impassive. — Impassable. — Bojador. —Pronounced bozh adōr'.



to the grandeur of his designs, Prince Henry established a naval college, and erected an observatory.

The effects of this establishment were soon apparent. All  
 70 that was known relative to geography and navigation was gathered together and reduced to system. A vast improvement took place in maps. The compass was also brought into more general use, especially among the Portuguese, rendering the mariner more bold and venturous, by enabling him to navigate in the  
 75 most gloomy day and in the darkest night. Encouraged by these advantages, and stimulated by the munificence of Prince Henry, the Portuguese marine became signalized for the hardihood of its enterprises and the extent of its discoveries. Cape Bojador was doubled; the region of the tropics penetrated, and divested of  
 80 its fancied terrors; the greater part of the African coast, from Cape Blanco to Cape de Verde, explored; and the Cape de Verde and Azore islands, which lay three hundred leagues distant from the continent, were rescued from the oblivious empire of the ocean.

85 Henry died on the 13th of November, 1473, without accomplishing the great object of his ambition. It was not until many years afterward that Vasco de Gama, pursuing with a Portuguese fleet the track he had pointed out, realized his anticipations by doubling the Cape of Good Hope, sailing along the southern  
 90 coast of India, and thus opening a highway for commerce to the opulent regions of the East.

The fame of the Portuguese discoveries, and of the expeditions continually setting out, drew the attention of the world. Strangers from all parts, the learned, the curious, and the adventurous,  
 95 resorted to Lisbon to inquire into the particulars or to participate in the advantages of these enterprises. Among these was Christopher Columbus.

81. Cape Blanco, Cape de Verde, Azore islands. — *Where are they?*

82. Three hundred leagues. — *How many miles?*

87. Vasco de Gama (gah'mah). — Many years afterward — 1497.

89. Doubling the Cape of Good Hope. — *Meaning of?*



*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Veteran.	Conceived.	Sanctioned.	Compass.
Chronicles.	Circumnavigating.	Philosophy.	Venturous.
Squadron.	Vivid.	Equator.	Stimulated.
Admiral.	Penetrating.	Girdled.	Munificence.
Predatory.	Co-operation.	Superstitious.	Divested.
Expedition.	Distrust.	Arid	Explored.
Prosecuted.	Boisterous.	Fervor.	Oblivious.
Meditated.	Timorously.	Observatory.	Participate.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### COLUMBUS AT LISBON—HE BELIEVES IN THE EXISTENCE OF UNDISCOVERED LANDS IN THE WEST.

COLUMBUS arrived at Lisbon about the year 1470. He was at that time in the full vigor of manhood, and of an engaging presence. Minute descriptions are given of his person by his son Fernando, by Las Casas, and others of his contemporaries. According to these accounts, he was tall, well-formed, muscular, 5 and of an elevated and dignified demeanor. His visage was long, and neither full nor meager; his complexion fair and freckled, and inclined to ruddy; his nose aquiline; his cheek-bones were rather high, his eyes light gray, and apt to enkindle; his whole countenance had an air of authority. His hair, in his 10 youthful days, was of a light color; but care and trouble, according to Las Casas, soon turned it gray, and at thirty years of age it was quite white. He was moderate and simple in diet and apparel, eloquent in discourse, engaging and affable with strangers, and his amiableness and suavity in domestic life 15 strongly attached his household to his person. His temper was naturally irritable; but he subdued it by the magnanimity of his spirit, comporting himself with a courteous and gentle gravity, and never indulging in any intemperance of language. Throughout his life he was noted for strict attention to the offices of relig- 20 ion, observing rigorously the fasts and ceremonies of the church; nor did his piety consist in mere forms, but partook of that lofty

and solemn enthusiasm with which his whole character was strongly tinged.

25 While at Lisbon, he was accustomed to attend religious service at the chapel of the convent of All Saints. In this convent were certain ladies of rank, either resident as boarders, or in some religious capacity. With one of these Columbus became acquainted. The acquaintance soon ripened into attachment, and  
30 ended in marriage. It appears to have been a match of mere affection, as the lady was destitute of fortune.

The newly married couple resided with the mother of the bride. The mother, perceiving the interest which Columbus took in all matters concerning the sea, related to him all she  
35 knew of the voyages and expeditions of her late husband, and brought him all his papers, charts, journals, and memorandums. In this way he became acquainted with the routes of the Portuguese, their plans and conceptions; and having, by his marriage and residence, become naturalized in Portugal, he sailed occa-  
40 sionally in the expeditions to the coast of Guinea. When on shore, he supported his family by making maps and charts. His narrow circumstances obliged him to observe a strict economy; yet we are told that he appropriated a part of his scanty means to the succor of his aged father at Genoa, and to the education  
45 of his younger brothers.

The construction of a correct map or chart, in those days, required a degree of knowledge and experience sufficient to entitle the possessor to distinction.

From constantly comparing maps and charts, and noting the  
50 progress and direction of discovery, he was led to perceive how much of the world remained unknown, and to meditate on the means of exploring it. His domestic concerns, and the connections he had formed by marriage, were all in unison with this vein of speculation. He resided for some time at the recently  
55 discovered island of Porto Santo, where his wife had inherited some property.

In their island residence, too, they must have been frequently visited by the voyagers going to and from Guinea. Living thus, surrounded by the stir and bustle of discovery, communing with persons who had risen by it to fortune and honor, and voyaging 60 in the very tracts of its recent triumphs, the ardent mind of Columbus kindled up to enthusiasm in the cause. It was a period of general excitement to all who were connected with maritime life, or who resided in the vicinity of the ocean.

One of the strongest symptoms of the excited state of the pop- 65 ular mind at this eventful era was the prevalence of rumors respecting unknown islands casually seen in the ocean. Many of these were mere fables, fabricated to feed the predominant humor of the public; many had their origin in the heated imaginations of voyagers, beholding islands in those summer clouds 70 which lie along the horizon, and often beguile the sailor with the idea of distant lands.

They were all noted down with curious care by Columbus, and may have had some influence over his imagination. Aroused by the impulse of passing events, he turned anew, says his son 75 Fernando, to study the geographical authors which he had read before, and to consider the astronomical reasons which might corroborate the theory gradually forming in his mind. He made himself acquainted with all that had been written by the ancients, or discovered by the moderns, relative to geography. 80 His own voyages enabled him to correct many of their errors and appreciate many of their theories. His genius having thus taken its decided bent, it is interesting to notice from what a mass of acknowledged facts, rational hypotheses, fanciful narrations, and popular rumors, his grand project of discovery was wrought out 85 by the strong workings of his vigorous mind.

It has been attempted, in the preceding chapters, to show how Columbus was gradually kindled up to his grand design by the spirit and events of the times in which he lived. His son Fer-

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84. Rational hypotheses, fanciful narrations, and popular rumors.—*Meaning of?*

90 nando, however, undertakes to furnish the precise data on which his father's plan of discovery was founded. "He does this," he observes, "to show from what slender argument so great a scheme was fabricated and brought to light; and for the purpose of satisfying those who may desire to know distinctly the circum-  
95 stances and motives which led his father to undertake this enterprise."

As this statement was formed from notes and documents found among his father's papers, it is too curious and interesting not to deserve particular mention. In this memorandum he  
100 arranged the foundation of his father's theory under three heads: 1. The nature of things. 2. The authority of learned writers. 3. The reports of navigators.

Under the first head he set down as a fundamental principle that the earth was a terraqueous sphere or globe, which might  
105 be traveled round from east to west, and that men stood foot to foot when on opposite points.

Under the second head are named the authors whose writings had weight in convincing him that the intervening ocean could be but of moderate expanse, and easy to be traversed.

110 Under the third head are enumerated various indications of land in the west, which had floated to the shores of the known world.

On considering the statement attentively, it is apparent that the grand argument which induced Columbus to his enterprise was that placed under the first head.

115 It is singular how much the success of this great undertaking depended upon two happy errors—the imaginary extent of Asia to the east, and the supposed smallness of the earth: both errors of the most learned and profound philosophers, but without which Columbus would hardly have ventured upon his enter-  
120 prise. The practicability, therefore, of finding land by sailing to the west was one of those mysteries of nature which are considered incredible while matters of mere speculation, but the simplest things imaginable when they have once been ascertained.

When Columbus had formed his theory, it became fixed in his mind with singular firmness, and influenced his entire character<sup>125</sup> and conduct. He never spoke in doubt or hesitation, but with as much certainty as if his eyes had beheld the promised land. No trial nor disappointment could divert him from the steady pursuit of his object. A deep religious sentiment mingled with his meditations, and gave them at times a tinge of superstition;<sup>130</sup> but it was of a sublime and lofty kind : he looked upon himself as standing in the hand of Heaven, chosen from among men for the accomplishment of its high purpose.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Presence.	Irritable.	Conception.	Casually.
Demeanor.	Magnanimity.	Naturalized.	Fabricated.
Visage.	Comporting.	Appropriated.	Predominant.
Meager.	Courteous.	Succor.	Humor.
Aquiline.	Gravity.	Unison.	Horizon.
Diet.	Rigorously.	Speculation.	Corroborate.
Apparel.	Tinctured.	Inherited.	Scheme.
Affable.	Destitute.	Communing.	Documents.
Amiability.	Journal.	Ardent.	Traversed.
Suavity.	Memorandum.	Symptoms.	Ascertained.

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#### CHAPTER IV.

PAULO TOSCANELLI—EVENTS IN PORTUGAL RELATIVE TO DISCOVERIES—PROPOSITION OF COLUMBUS—DEPARTURE FROM PORTUGAL.

It is impossible to determine the precise time when Columbus first conceived the design of seeking a western route to India. It is certain, however, that he meditated it as early as the year 1474, though as yet it lay crude and unmaturing in his mind. This fact, which is of some importance, is sufficiently established. Columbus was greatly animated by the letter and chart



- of Toscanelli, who was considered one of the ablest cosmographers of the day. He appears to have procured the work of Marco Polo, which had been translated into various languages, and existed in manuscript in most libraries. This author gives marvelous accounts of the riches of the realms of Cathay and Mangi, or Mangu, since ascertained to be Northern and Southern China, on the coast of which, according to the map of Toscanelli, a voyager sailing directly west would be sure to arrive.
- 15 The narrations of this traveler were by some considered fabulous; but though full of what appear to be splendid exaggerations, they have since been found substantially correct. They are thus particularly noted, from the influence they had over the imagination of Columbus.
- 20 While the design of attempting the discovery in the west was maturing in the mind of Columbus, he made a voyage to the north of Europe.

- Several more years elapsed, without any decided efforts on the part of Columbus to carry his design into execution. He was too poor to fit out the armament necessary for so important an expedition. Indeed it was an enterprise only to be undertaken in the employ of some sovereign state, which could assume dominion over the territories he might discover, and reward him with dignities and privileges commensurate to his services.
- 30 His residence in Portugal placed him at hand to solicit the patronage of that power, but Alphonso, who was then on the throne, was too much engrossed in the latter part of his reign

7. **Toscanelli**—Pronounced *tos can-ell*.—**Cosmographer**.—One who describes the universe, the heavens and the earth.

9. **Mar'co Po'lo**.—The first and most extensive Venetian traveler among Eastern nations. He visited the chief countries and cities of Eastern Asia, among them Japan, which was not previously known to exist.

Returned to Venice in 1295, after which an interesting account of his travels was published and had a wonderful effect in encouraging discovery and exploration.

23. **Elapsed**.—*Literal meaning?*

27. **Sovereign state**.—Define, and give an example.

32. **Engrossed**.—Absorbed, occupied.



with a war with Spain, for the succession of the Princess Juana to the crown of Castile, to engage in peaceful enterprises of an expensive nature.

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The time, however, was at hand that was to extend the sphere of navigation. The era was propitious to the quick advancement of knowledge. The recent invention of the art of printing enabled men to communicate rapidly and extensively their ideas and discoveries. It drew forth learning from libra- 40  
ries and convents, and brought it familiarly to the reading-desk of the student. Volumes of information, which before had existed only in costly manuscripts, carefully treasured up, and kept out of the reach of the indigent scholar and obscure artist, were now in every hand. There was henceforth to be no retro- 45  
gression in knowledge, nor any pause in its career. Every step in advance was immediately, and simultaneously, and widely promulgated, recorded in a thousand forms, and fixed forever. There could never again be a dark age; nations might shut their eyes to the light, and sit in willful darkness, but they could 50  
not trample it out; it would still shine on, dispensed to happier parts of the world, by the diffusive powers of the press.

At this juncture, in 1481, a monarch ascended the throne of Portugal, of different ambition from Alphonso. John II., then in the twenty-fifth year of his age, had imbibed the passion for 55  
discovery from his grand-uncle, Prince Henry, and with his reign all its activity revived.

The magnificent idea he had formed of the remote parts of the East made him extremely anxious that the splendid project of Prince Henry should be realized, and the Portuguese flag 60  
penetrate to the Indian seas. Impatient of the slowness with which his discoveries advanced along the coast of Africa, and of

33. Juana.—Pronounced hoo-ä'nä.

34. Castile.—Pronounced cas-teel'.

38. The art of printing from movable type was discovered about 1436 by John Gutenberg.

43. Manuscript.—Literally means written by hand.

59. Splendid project.—A western route to India.

the impediments which every cape and promontory presented to nautical enterprise, he called in the aid of science to devise some  
65 means by which greater scope and certainty might be given to navigation. His two physicians, Roderigo and Joseph, the latter a Jew, the most able astronomers and cosmographers of his kingdom, together with the celebrated Martin Behem, entered into a learned consultation on the subject. The result  
70 of their conferences and labors was the application of the astrolabe to navigation, enabling the seaman, by the altitude of the sun, to ascertain his distance from the equator. This instrument has since been improved and modified into the modern quadrant, of which, even at its first introduction, it possessed all  
75 the essential advantages.

It is impossible to describe the effect produced upon navigation by this invention. It cast it loose at once from its long bondage to the land, and set it free to rove the deep. The mariner now, instead of coasting° the shores like the ancient  
80 navigators, and, if driven from the land, groping his way back in doubt and apprehension by the uncertain guidance of the stars, might adventure boldly into unknown seas, confident of being able to trace his course by means of the compass and the astrolabe.

85 It was shortly after this event, which had prepared guides for discovery across the trackless ocean, that Columbus made the first attempt, of which we have any clear and indisputable record, to procure royal patronage for his enterprise. The court of Portugal had shown extraordinary liberality in rewarding nautical  
90 discovery. Encouraged by this liberality, and by the anxiety evinced by King John II. to accomplish a passage by sea to India, Columbus obtained an audience of that monarch, and proposed, in case the king would furnish him with ships and men, to undertake a shorter and more direct route than that  
95 along the coast of Africa. His plan was to strike directly to the west, across the Atlantic.

The king, according to Fernando, listened to his father with great attention, but was discouraged from engaging in any new scheme of the kind by the cost and trouble already sustained in exploring the route by the African coast, which as yet remained 100 unaccomplished. His father, however, supported his proposition by such excellent reasons that the king was induced to give his consent. The only difficulty that remained was the terms ; for Columbus, being a man of lofty and noble sentiments, demanded high and honorable titles and rewards, to the end, says 105 Fernando, that he might leave behind him a name and family worthy of his deeds and merits.

The reasoning of Columbus must have produced an effect on the mind of the monarch, since it is certain that he referred the proposition to a learned *junto*, charged with all matters relating 110 to maritime discovery. This scientific body treated the project as extravagant and visionary.

Still the king does not appear to have been satisfied.. According to his historian, he convoked his council, composed of prelates and persons of the greatest learning in the kingdom, and 115 asked their advice, whether to adopt this new route of discovery, or to pursue that which they had already opened.

King John still manifested an inclination for the enterprise. It was suggested to him by the Bishop of Ceuta that Columbus might be kept in suspense while a vessel secretly dispatched in 120 the direction he should point out might ascertain whether there were any foundation for his theory. By this means all its advantages might be secured, without committing the dignity of the crown by formal negotiations about what might prove a mere chimera. King John, in an evil hour, had the weakness to per- 125 mit a stratagem so inconsistent with his usual justice and magnanimity. Columbus was required to furnish for the considera-

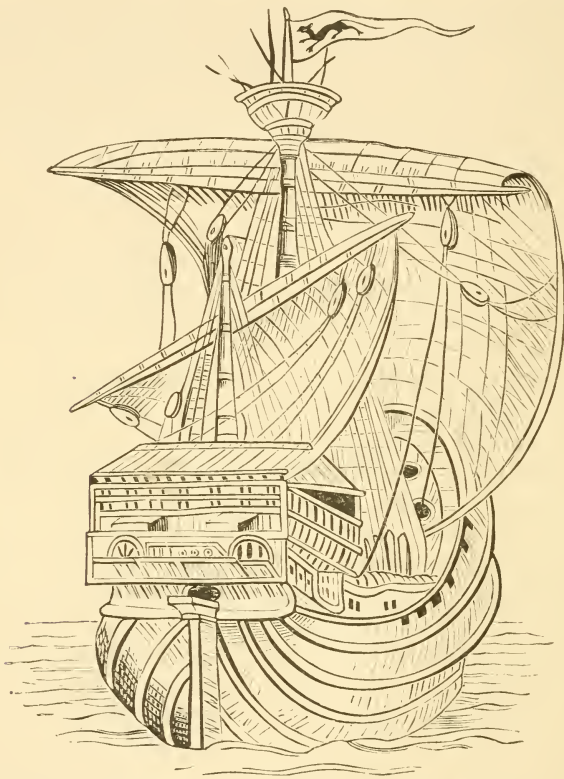
97. His.—*Whose?*

110. *Junto*.—A select body which deliberates in secret on affairs of state.

119. Ceuta —A town on the coast of Morocco.

120. Kept in suspense.—*Meaning of?*

tion of the council a detailed plan of his proposed voyage, with the charts and documents according to which he intended to  
130 shape his course. These being procured, a caravel was dispatched with the ostensible design of carrying provisions to the



SPANISH CARAVEL IN WHICH COLUMBUS DISCOVERED AMERICA.

(From a drawing attributed to Columbus, 1494.)

Cape de Verde islands, but with private instructions to pursue the designated route. Departing from those islands the caravel stood westward for several days, until the weather became  
135 stormy; when the pilots, seeing nothing but an immeasurable

waste of wild, tumbling waves still extending before them, lost all courage and put back, ridiculing the project of Columbus as extravagant and irrational.

This unworthy attempt to defraud him of his enterprise roused the indignation of Columbus, and he declined all offers of King John to renew the negotiation. The death of his wife, which had occurred some time previously, had dissolved the domestic tie which bound him to Portugal; he determined, therefore, to abandon a country where he had been treated with so little faith, and to look elsewhere for patronage. 145

It was toward the end of 1484 that he left Lisbon, taking with him his son Diego. His departure had to be conducted with secrecy, lest, as some assert, it should be prevented by King John; but lest, as others surmise, it should be prevented by his creditors. Like many other great projectors, while engaged upon schemes of vast benefit to mankind, he had suffered his own affairs to go to ruin, and was reduced to struggle hard with poverty; nor is it one of the least interesting circumstances in his eventful life that he had in a manner to beg his way from court to court, to offer to princes the discovery of a world. 155

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*Give the meaning of the following words:*

Precise.	Commensurate.	Dispensed.	Prelates.
Conceived.	Solicit.	Diffusive.	Manifested.
Design.	Patronage.	Juncture.	Dispatched.
Route.	Era.	Imbibe.	Chimera.
Crude.	Propitious.	Impediment.	Stratagem.
Unnatural.	Indigent.	Astrolabe.	Ostensible.
Animated.	Obscure.	Bondage.	Extravagant.
Fabulous.	Retgression.	Audience.	Irrational.
Armament.	Simultaneously.	Visionary.	Defraud.
Dominion.	Promulgated.	Convoked.	Surmise.

## CHAPTER V.

COLUMBUS AFTER LEAVING PORTUGAL—HIS APPLICATIONS  
IN SPAIN—COLUMBUS AT THE COURT OF SPAIN.

THE first firm and indisputable trace we have of Columbus after leaving Portugal is in the south of Spain, in 1485, where we find him seeking his fortune among the Spanish nobles, several of whom had vast possessions, and exercised almost independent sovereignty in their domains.

Foremost among these were the dukes of Medina Sidonia and Medina Celi, who had estates like principalities lying along the sea-coast, with ports and shipping and hosts of retainers at their command.

10 Columbus had many interviews with the Duke of Medina Sidonia, who was tempted for a time by the splendid prospects held out ; but their very splendor threw a coloring of improbability over the enterprise, and he finally rejected it as the dream of an Italian visionary.

15 The Duke of Medina Celi was likewise favorable at the outset. He entertained Columbus for some time in his house, and was actually on the point of granting him three or four caravels which lay ready for the sea in his harbor of Port St. Mary, opposite Cadiz, when he suddenly changed his mind, deterred by the  
20 consideration that the enterprise, if successful, would involve discoveries too important to be grasped by any but a sovereign

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7. **Principality.**—The territory of a prince or ruler.

8. **Retainers.**— Dependents ; servants.

19. **Cadiz.**— A seaport city of Southwestern Spain,



power, and that the Spanish Government might be displeased at his undertaking it on his own account. Finding, however, that Columbus intended to make his next application to the King of France, and loath that an enterprise of such importance should be lost to Spain, the duke wrote to Queen Isabella, recommending it strongly to her attention. The queen made a favorable reply, and requested that Columbus might be sent to her. He accordingly set out for the Spanish court, then at Cordova, bearing a letter to the queen from the duke, soliciting that, in case the expedition should be carried into effect, he might have a share in it, and the fitting out of the armament from his port of St. Mary, as a recompense for having waived the enterprise in favor of the crown.

The time when Columbus thus sought his fortunes at the court of Spain coincided with one of the most brilliant periods of the Spanish monarchy. The union of the kingdoms of Aragon and Castile, by the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, had consolidated the Christian power in the Peninsula, and put an end to those internal feuds which had so long distracted the country, and insured the domination of the Moslems.

When Columbus arrived at Cordova he found the city in all the bustle of military preparation. It was a critical juncture of the war. The rival kings of Granada had just formed a coalition, and their league called for prompt and vigorous measures.

All the chivalry of Spain had been summoned to the field ; the



ISABELLA.

29. Cordova.—A city in Southern Spain.

39. Aragon and Castile.—Respectively the western and eastern kingdoms of Spain.

45. Moslems. — Mussulmans ; believers in Mohammedanism.

50. Granada. — A southern division of Spain.

streets of Cordova echoed to the tramp of steed and sound of trumpet, as day by day the nobles arrived with their retainers, vying with each other in the number of their troops and the splendor of their appointments. The court was like a military camp; the king and queen were surrounded by the flower of Spanish chivalry; by those veteran cavaliers who had distinguished themselves in so many hardy conflicts with the Moors, and by the prelates and friars who mingled in martial council, and took deep interest and agency in this war of the Faith.

This was an unpropitious moment to urge a suit like that of Columbus. In fact the sovereigns had not a moment of leisure throughout this eventful year. Early in the spring, the king marched off to laysiege to the Moorish city of Loxa; and though the queen remained at Cordova, she was continually employed in forwarding troops and supplies to the army and at the same time attending to the multiplied exigencies of civil government.

During the summer and autumn of this year Columbus remained at Cordova, a guest in the house of Alonzo de Quintanilla, who proved a warm advocate of his theory. Through his means he became acquainted with the pope's nuncio, and his brother, preceptor to the younger children of Ferdinand and Isabella—both valuable friends about court.

In the winter Columbus followed the court to Salamanca. Here his zealous friend, Alonzo de Quintanilla, exerted his influence to obtain for him the countenance of the celebrated Pedro Gonzalez de Mendoza, Archbishop of Toledo, and Grand Cardinal of Spain. This was the most important personage about the court, and was facetiously called by Peter Martyr the "third king of Spain."

Columbus knew the importance of his auditor, and that a conference with the grand cardinal was almost equivalent to a communication with the throne; he exerted himself to the utmost,

61. **War of the Faith.**—A religious war between Christians and Mohammedans.

72. **Nuncio.**—An ambassador or messenger from the pope.

75. *Where is Salamanca?*

therefore, to explain and demonstrate his proposition. The 85  
 clear-headed cardinal listened with profound attention. He was  
 pleased with the noble and earnest manner of Columbus, which  
 showed him to be no common schemer ; he felt the grandeur,  
 and at the same time the simplicity, of his theory, and the force  
 of many of the arguments by which it was supported. He de- 90  
 termined that it was a matter highly worthy of the consideration  
 of the sovereigns, and through his representations Columbus at  
 length obtained admission to the royal presence.

We have but scanty particulars of this audience, nor can we  
 ascertain whether Queen Isabella was present on the occasion ; 95  
 the contrary seems to be most probably the case. Columbus ap-  
 peared in the royal presence with modesty, yet self-possession,  
 neither dazzled nor daunted by the splendor of the court or the  
 awful majesty of the throne. He unfolded his plan with eloquence  
 and zeal, for he felt himself, as he afterwards declared, kindled 100  
 as with a fire from on high, and considered himself the agent  
 chosen by Heaven to accomplish its grand designs.

Ferdinand was too keen a judge of men not to appreciate the  
 character of Columbus. He perceived that, however soaring  
 might be his imagination, and vast and visionary his views, his 105  
 scheme had scientific and practical foundation.

Still, as usual, Ferdinand was cool and wary, and would not  
 trust his own judgment in a matter that involved so many prin-  
 ciples of science. He determined to take the opinion of the  
 most learned men in the kingdom, and to be guided by their 110  
 decision.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Visionary.

Deterred.

Loath.

Recompense.

Waived.

Coincided.

Coalition.

League,

Chivalry.

Vying.

Cavaliers.

Exigencies.

Preceptor.

Conference.

Daunted.

Wary.

## CHAPTER VI.

## COLUMBUS BEFORE THE COUNCIL AT SALAMANCA—AT THE COURT OF CASTILE.

THE interesting conference relative to the proposition of Columbus took place in Salamanca, the great seat of learning in Spain. It was held in the Dominican convent of St. Stephen, in which he was lodged and entertained with great hospitality during the course of the examination.

Religion and science were at that time, and more especially in that country, closely associated. The treasures of learning were immured in monasteries, and the professors' chairs were exclusively filled from the cloister.

10 The council of clerical sages was convened in the collegiate convent of St. Stephen to investigate the new theory of Columbus. It was composed of professors of astronomy, geography, mathematics, and other branches of science, together with various dignitaries of the church, and learned friars. Before this erudite  
15 assembly, Columbus presented himself to propound and defend his conclusions. He had been scoffed at as a visionary by the vulgar and the ignorant; but he was convinced that he only required a body of enlightened men to listen dispassionately to his reasonings to insure triumphant conviction.

20 The greater part of this learned junto, it is very probable, came prepossessed against him, as men in place and dignity are apt to be against poor applicants.

What a striking spectacle must the hall of the old convent have presented at this memorable conference! A simple mari-

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8, 9. **Cloister** is a place of seclusion from the world. **Monastery** is a place for men called monks.

ner, standing forth in the midst of an imposing array of professors, friars, and dignitaries of the church; maintaining his theory with natural eloquence, and, as it were, pleading the cause of the new world.

At the very threshold of the discussion, instead of geographical objections, Columbus was assailed with citations from the Bible<sup>30</sup> and the Testament: the book of Genesis, the psalms of David, the prophets, the epistles, and the gospels. To these were added the expositions of various saints and reverend commentators. Doctrinal points were mixed up with philosophical discussions, and a mathematical demonstration was allowed no weight, if it<sup>35</sup> appeared to clash with a text of Scripture or a commentary of one of the fathers. Thus the possibility of antipodes, in the southern hemisphere, an opinion so generally maintained by the wisest of the ancients as to be pronounced by Pliny the great contest between the learned and the ignorant, became a stumbling-block with some of the sages of Salamanca. Several of them stoutly contradicted this fundamental position of Columbus, supporting themselves by quotations from Lactantius and St. Augustine, who were considered in those days as almost evangelical authority.<sup>45</sup>

The passage cited from Lactantius to confute Columbus is in a strain of gross ridicule, unworthy of so grave a theologian. "Is there any one so foolish," he asks, "as to believe that there are antipodes with their feet opposite to ours: people who walk with their heels upward, and their heads hanging down? That<sup>50</sup> there is a part of the world in which all things are topsy-turvy; where the trees grow with their branches downward, and where it rains, hails, and snows upward? The idea of the roundness of the earth," he adds, "was the cause of inventing this fable of the antipodes, with their heels in the air; for these philosophers, having<sup>55</sup> once erred, go on in their absurdities, defending one with another."

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30. Citations.—Quotations.

33. Reverend commentator.—One who explains the Scriptures.

37. Fathers.—Fathers of the Church.

39. Pliny.—An ancient historian.



Objections of a graver nature were advanced on the authority of St. Augustine. He pronounces the doctrine of antipodes to be incompatible with the historical foundations of our faith; since, to assert that there were inhabited lands on the opposite side of the globe would be to maintain that there were nations not descended from Adam, it being impossible for them to have passed the intervening ocean. This would be, therefore, to discredit the Bible, which expressly declares that all men are descended from one common parent.

Such were the unlooked-for prejudices which Columbus had to encounter at the very outset of his conference, and which certainly relish more of the convent than the university.

Columbus, who was a devoutly religious man, found that he was in danger of being convicted not merely of error, but of heterodoxy. Others more versed in science admitted the globular form of the earth, and the possibility of an opposite and habitable hemisphere; but they brought up the chimera of the ancients, and maintained that it would be impossible to arrive there, in consequence of the insupportable heat of the torrid zone. Even granting this could be passed, they observed that the circumference of the earth must be so great as to require at least three years to the voyage, and those who should undertake it must perish of hunger and thirst, from the impossibility of carrying provisions for so long a period. He was told, on the authority of Epicurus, that, admitting the earth to be spherical, it was only inhabitable in the northern hemisphere, and in that section only was canopied by the heavens; that the opposite half was a chaos, a gulf, or a mere waste of water. Not the least absurd objection advanced was, that should a ship even succeed in reaching, in this way, the extremity of India, she could never get back again; for the rotundity of the globe would present a kind of mountain, up which it would be impossible for her to sail with the most favorable wind.

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58. *St. Au'gus-tine* (teen).—A learned monk of the sixth century.

81. *Epicurus*.—A Greek philosopher, born 342, died 270, B.C.



Such are specimens of the errors and prejudices, the mingled 90  
ignorance and erudition, with which Columbus had to contend  
throughout the examination of his theory. Can we wonder at  
the difficulties and delays which he experienced at courts, when  
such vague and crude notions were entertained by the learned  
men of a university?

There were no doubt objections advanced more cogent in their  
nature, and more worthy of that distinguished university. It is  
but justice to add, also, that the replies of Columbus had great  
weight with many of his learned examiners. In answer to the  
scriptural objections, he submitted that the inspired writers were 100  
not speaking technically as cosmographers, but figuratively, in  
language addressed to all comprehensions. The commentaries  
of the fathers he treated with deference as pious homilies, but  
not as philosophical propositions which it was necessary either to  
admit or refute. The objections drawn from ancient philosophers 105  
he met boldly and ably upon equal terms; for he was deeply  
studied on all points of cosmography.

When Columbus took his stand before this learned body, he  
had appeared the plain and simple navigator; somewhat daunted,  
perhaps, by the greatness of his task and the august nature of 110  
his auditory. But he had a degree of religious feeling which  
gave him a confidence in the execution of what he conceived his  
great errand, and he was of an ardent temperament that became  
heated in action by its own generous fires.

Notwithstanding every exertion, however, this erudite body 115  
refused to yield to the demonstrations of an obscure foreigner,  
without fortune or connections, or any academic honors.  
Fernando de Talavera, to whom the matter was especially  
intrusted, had too little esteem for it, and was too much occupied  
with the stir and bustle of public concerns, to press it to a con- 120  
clusion; and thus the inquiry experienced continual procrastina-  
tion and neglect.

In the spring of 1489 the long-adjourned investigation ap-

peared to be on the eve of taking place. Columbus was summoned to attend a conference of learned men, to be held in the city of Seville; a royal order was issued for lodgings to be provided for him there; and the magistrates of all cities and towns through which he might pass on his way were commanded to furnish accommodations gratis for himself and his attendants. A provision of the kind was necessary in those days, when even the present wretched establishments called posadas, for the reception of travelers, were scarcely known.

The city of Seville complied with the royal command, but as usual the appointed conference was postponed, being interrupted by the opening of a campaign. "in which," says an old chronicler of the place, "the same Columbus was found fighting, giving proofs of the distinguished valor which accompanied his wisdom and his lofty desires."

The summer of 1490 passed away, but still Columbus was kept in tantalizing and tormenting suspense. The subsequent winter was not more propitious. He was lingering at Cordova in a state of irritating anxiety, when he learned that the sovereigns were preparing to depart on a campaign in the Vega of Granada, with a determination never to raise their camp from before that city until their victorious banners should float upon its towers.

Columbus was aware that when once the campaign was opened and the sovereigns were in the field it would be in vain to expect any attention to his suit. He was wearied, if not incensed, at the repeated postponements he had experienced, by which several years had been consumed. He now pressed for a decisive reply with an earnestness that would not admit of evasion. Fernando de Talavera, therefore, was called upon by the sovereigns to hold a definite conference with the scientific men to whom the project had been referred, and to make a report of their decision. The bishop tardily complied, and at length reported to their majesties, as the general opinion of the Junto, that the proposed scheme was vain and impossible, and that it did not become such

great princes to engage in an enterprise of the kind on such weak grounds as had been advanced.

Fernando de Talavera, therefore, was commanded to inform <sup>166</sup> Columbus, who was still at Cordova, that the great cares and expenses of the wars rendered it impossible for the sovereigns to engage in any new enterprise: but that when the war was concluded they would have both time and inclination to treat with him about what he proposed. <sup>167</sup>

Columbus looked upon this indefinite postponement as a mere courtly mode of evading his importunity, and supposed that the favorable dispositions of the sovereigns had been counteracted by the objections of the ignorant and bigoted. Renouncing all further confidence, therefore, in vague promises, which had so <sup>170</sup> often led to disappointment, and giving up all hopes of countenance from the throne, he turned his back upon Seville, indignant at the thoughts of having been beguiled out of so many precious years of waning existence.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Immured.	Antipodes.	Prejudices.	August.
Convened.	Hemisphere.	Canopied.	Auditory.
Propound.	Sages.	Chaos.	Procrastination.
Scoffed.	Evangelical.	Botundity.	Conference.
Enlightened.	Confute.	Cogent.	Tantalizing.
Prepossessed.	Ridicule.	Technically.	Counteracted.
Exposition.	Incompatible.	Refute.	Bigoted.

## CHAPTER VII.

## COLUMBUS AT THE CONVENT OF LA RABIDA.

ABOUT half a league from the little seaport of Palos de Moguer in Andalusia there stood, and continues to stand at the present day, an ancient convent of Franciscan friars, dedicated to Santa Maria de Rabida. One day a stranger on foot, in humble guise  
5 but of a distinguished air, accompanied by a small boy, stopped at the gate of the convent, and asked of the porter a little bread and water for his child. While receiving this humble refreshment, the prior of the convent, happening to pass by, was struck with the appearance of the stranger, and, observing from his air  
10 and accent that he was a foreigner, entered into conversation with him, and soon learned the particulars of his story. That stranger was Columbus.

The prior was a man of extensive information. His attention had been turned in some measure to geographical and nautical  
15 science, probably from his vicinity to Palos, the inhabitants of which were among the most enterprising navigators of Spain, and made frequent voyages to the recently discovered islands and countries on the African coast. He was greatly interested by the conversation of Columbus, and struck with the grandeur  
20 of his views. It was a remarkable occurrence in the monotonous life of the cloister to have a man of such singular character, intent on so extraordinary an enterprise, applying for bread and water at the gate of his convent.

When he found, however, that the voyager was on the point  
25 of abandoning Spain to seek patronage in the court of France, and that so important an enterprise was about to be lost forever

to the country, the patriotism of the good friar took the alarm. He detained Columbus as his guest, and, diffident of his own judgment, sent for a scientific friend to converse with him. That friend was Garcia Fernandez, a physician resident in Palos, 30 the same who furnishes this interesting testimony. Fernandez was equally struck with the appearance and conversation of the stranger ; several conferences took place at the convent, at which several of the veteran mariners of Palos were present. Among these was Martin Alonzo Pinzon, the head of a family of wealthy 35 and experienced navigators of the place, celebrated for their adventurous expeditions. Facts were related by some of these navigators in support of the theory of Columbus. In a word, his project was treated with a deference in the quiet cloisters of La Rabida, and among the seafaring men of Palos, which had been 40 sought in vain among the sages and philosophers of the court. Martin Alonzo Pinzon especially was so convinced of its feasibility that he offered to engage in it with purse and person, and to bear the expenses of Columbus in a renewed application to the court.

45

Friar Juan Perez was confirmed in his faith by the concurrence of those learned and practical councilors. He had once been confessor to the queen, and knew that she was always accessible to persons of his sacred calling.

The sacred office of Juan Perez gained him a ready entrance 50 in a court distinguished for religious zeal ; and, once admitted to the presence of the queen, his former relation, as father confessor, gave him great freedom of counsel. He pleaded the cause of Columbus with characteristic enthusiasm, speaking from actual knowledge of his honorable motives, his professional 55 knowledge and experience, and his perfect capacity to fulfill the undertaking ; he represented the solid principles upon which the enterprise was founded, the advantage that must attend its success, and the glory it must shed upon the Spanish crown. The queen requested that Columbus might be again sent to her, and, 60 with the kind considerateness which characterized her, bethinking herself of his poverty and his humble plight, ordered that



twenty thousand maravedies in florins should be forwarded to him, to bear his traveling expenses, to provide him with a mule for his journey, and to furnish him with decent raiment, that he might make a respectable appearance at the court.

The worthy friar lost no time in communicating the result of his mission ; he transmitted the money, and a letter, by the hands of an inhabitant of Palos, to the physician Garcia Fernandez, who delivered them to Columbus. The latter complied with the instructions conveyed in the epistle. He exchanged his threadbare garb for one more suited to the sphere of a court, and, purchasing a mule, set out once more, reanimated by hopes, for the camp before Granada.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Guise.

Feasibility.

Concurrence.

Plight.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### APPLICATION TO THE COURT AT THE TIME OF THE SURRENDER OF GRANADA.

WHEN Columbus arrived at the court he experienced a favorable reception, and was given in hospitable charge to his steady friend Alonzo de Quintanilla, the accountant-general. The moment, however, was too eventful for his business to receive immediate attention. He arrived in time to witness the memorable surrender of Granada to the Spanish arms.

Do we want a picture of our navigator during this brilliant and triumphant scene ? It is furnished by a Spanish writer.

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63. Twenty thousand maravedies.—  
Or 72 dollars, and equivalent to 216  
dollars of the present day.

74. Granada.—A division of Southern Spain.



“A man obscure and but little known followed at this time the court. Confounded in the crowd of importunate applicants, 10 feeding his imagination in the corners of antechambers with the pompous project of discovering a world, melancholy and dejected in the midst of the general rejoicing, he beheld with indifference, and almost with contempt, the conclusion of a conquest which swelled all bosoms with jubilee, and seemed to have 15 reached the utmost bounds of desire. That man was Christopher Columbus.”

The moment had now arrived, however, when the monarchs stood pledged to attend to his proposals. The war with the Moors was at an end, Spain was delivered from its intruders, 20 and its sovereigns might securely turn their views to foreign enterprise. They kept their word with Columbus. So fully imbued was Columbus with the grandeur of his enterprise that he would listen to none but princely conditions. His principal stipulation was, that he should be invested with the titles and 25 privileges of admiral and viceroy over the countries he should discover, with one tenth of all gains, either by trade or conquest. The courtiers who treated with him were indignant at such a demand. To this Columbus promptly replied by offering to furnish one eighth of the cost, on condition of enjoying an 30 eighth of the profits. To do this, he no doubt calculated on the proffered assistance of Martin Alonzo Pinzon, the wealthy navigator of Palos.

His terms, however, were pronounced inadmissible. More moderate conditions were offered to Columbus, and such as ap- 35 peared highly honorable and advantageous. It was all in vain: he would not cede one point of his demands, and the negotiation was broken off.

It is impossible not to admire the great constancy of purpose and loftiness of spirit displayed by Columbus, ever since he had 40

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26. Admiral.—An officer of the highest rank in the navy.—Viceroy.—The governor of a country, ruling in the place of a king and having kingly power.

conceived the sublime idea of his discovery. More than eighteen years had elapsed since his correspondence with Paulo Toscanelli of Florence, wherein he had announced his design.

When the few friends who were zealous believers in the  
45 theory of Columbus saw him really on the point of abandoning the country, they were filled with distress, considering his departure an irreparable loss to the nation. Among the number was St. Angel, the receiver of the ecclesiastical revenues in Aragon. Determined if possible to avert the evil, he obtained an  
50 immediate audience of the queen. The exigency of the moment gave him courage and eloquence.

He entreated her majesty not to be misled by the assertions of learned men, that the project was the dream of a visionary. He vindicated the judgment of Columbus, and the soundness  
55 and practicability of his plans. Neither would even his failure reflect disgrace upon the crown. The generous spirit of Isabella was enkindled. It seemed as if, for the first time, the subject broke upon her mind in its real grandeur, and she declared her resolution to undertake the enterprise.

60 There was still a moment's hesitation. The king looked coldly on the affair, and the royal finances were absolutely drained by the war. Some time must be given to replenish them. How could she draw on an exhausted treasury for a measure to which the king was adverse! St. Angel watched this  
65 suspense with trembling anxiety. The next moment reassured him. With an enthusiasm worthy of herself and of the cause, Isabella exclaimed, "I undertake the enterprise for my own crown of Castile, and will pledge my jewels to raise the necessary funds." This was the proudest moment in the life of  
70 Isabella; it stamped her renown forever as the patroness of the discovery of the New World.

Columbus had pursued his lonely journey across the Vega, or plain, and reached the bridge of Pinos, about two leagues from Granada, at the foot of the mountain of Elvira, a pass famous in  
75 the Moorish wars for many a desperate encounter between the Christians and infidels. Here he was overtaken by a courier from

the queen, spurring in all speed, who summoned him to return to Santa Fé. He hesitated for a moment, being loath to subject himself again to the delays and equivocations of the court ; when informed, however, of the sudden zeal for the enterprise excited so in the mind of the queen, and the positive promise she had given to undertake it, he no longer felt a doubt, but, turning the reins of his mule, hastened back with joyful alacrity to Santa Fé, confiding in the noble probity of that princess.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Pledged.	Stipulation.	Irreparable.	Alacrity.
Intruders.	Inadmissible.	Adverse.	Probity.
Imbued.	Cede.	Equivocations.	

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## CHAPTER IX.

### PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXPEDITION.

ON arriving at Santa Fé, Columbus had an immediate audience of the queen, and the benignity with which she received him atoned for all past neglect. Through deference to the zeal she thus suddenly displayed, the king yielded his tardy concurrence, but Isabella was the soul of this grand enterprise. She was prompted by lofty and generous enthusiasm, while the king proved cold and calculating in this as in all his other undertakings.

A perfect understanding being thus effected with the sovereigns, articles of agreement were ordered to be drawn. They were to the following effect:

1. That Columbus should have, for himself during his life, and his heirs and successors forever, the office of admiral in all the lands and continents which he might discover or acquire in the ocean, with similar honors and prerogatives to those enjoyed by the high admiral of Castile in his district.

2. That he should be viceroy and governor-general over all the said lands and continents, with the privilege of nominating three candidates for the government of each island or province, one of whom should be selected by the sovereigns.

3. That he should be entitled to reserve for himself one tenth of all pearls, precious stones, gold, silver, spices, and all other articles and merchandises, in whatever manner found, bought, bartered, or gained within his admiralty, the costs being first deducted.

4. That he, or his lieutenant, should be the sole judge in all causes and disputes arising out of traffic between those countries and Spain, provided the high admiral of Castile had similar jurisdiction in his district.

5. That he might then, and at all aftertimes, contribute an eighth part of the expense in fitting out vessels to sail on this enterprise, and receive an eighth part of the profits.

The capitulations were signed by Ferdinand and Isabella, at the city of Santa Fé, in the Vega or plain of Granada, on the 17th of April, 1492. A letter of privilege, or commission to Columbus, of similar purport, was drawn out in form, and issued by the sovereigns in the city of Granada, on the thirtieth of the same month. In this, the dignities and prerogatives of viceroy and governor were made hereditary in his family; and he and his heirs were authorized to prefix the title of Don to their names; a distinction accorded in those days only to persons of rank and estate, though it has since lost all value, from being universally used in Spain.

All the royal documents issued on this occasion bore equally the signatures of Ferdinand and Isabella, but her separate crown of Castile defrayed all the expense; and during her life, few persons, except Castilians, were permitted to establish themselves in the new territories.

17. Governor-general.—The chief officer in a province.

24. Within his admiralty.—Under and during his command.

33. Capitulations. — Papers of agreements.

40. Don.—A title in Spain formerly given to the noblemen.

The port of Palos de Moguer was fixed upon as the place where the armament was to be fitted out. 50

Thus gratified in his dearest wishes, after a course of delays and disappointments sufficient to have reduced any ordinary man to despair, Columbus took leave of the court on the 12th of May, and set out joyfully for Palos.

On the following morning, the 23d of May, Columbus, accom- 55  
panied by Fray Juan Perez, whose character and station gave him great importance in the neighborhood, proceeded to the church of St. George in Palos, where the alcalde, the regidores, and many of the inhabitants of the place had been notified to attend. Here, in presence of them all, in the porch of the 60  
church, a royal order was read by a notary public, commanding the authorities of Palos to have two caravels ready for sea within ten days after this notice, and to place them and their crews at the disposal of Columbus.

Weeks elapsed without a vessel being procured, or anything 65  
else being done in fulfillment of the royal orders. All kinds of obstacles were thrown in the way, by these people and their friends, to retard or defeat the voyage. The calkers employed upon the vessels did their work in a careless and imperfect manner, and on being commanded to do it over again absconded. 70

At length, by the beginning of August, every difficulty was vanquished, and the vessels were ready for sea. The largest, which had been prepared expressly for the voyage, and was decked, was called the Santa Maria; on board of this ship Columbus hoisted his flag. The second, called the Pinta, was 75  
commanded by Martin Alonzo Pinzon, accompanied by his brother Francisco Martin, as pilot. The third, called the Niña, had latine sails, and was commanded by the third of the brothers, Vicente Yañez Pinzon. There were three other pilots. There were also a physician and a surgeon, together with various pri- 80

49. Palos.—For location, see map,  
p. 6.

58. Alcalde.—A Spanish judge.

75. Hoisted his flag.—Made it the  
flag-ship, which bears the colors of  
the commanding officer.

vate adventurers, several servants, and ninety mariners ; making in all one hundred and twenty persons.

The squadron being ready to put to sea, Columbus, impressed with the solemnity of his undertaking, confessed himself to the  
 85 Friar Juan Perez, and partook of the sacrament of the communion. His example was followed by his officers and crew, and they entered upon their enterprise full of awe, and with the most devout and affecting ceremonials, committing themselves to the especial guidance and protection of Heaven. A deep gloom  
 90 was spread over the whole community of Palos at their departure, for almost every one had some relative or friend on board of the squadron. The spirits of the seamen, already depressed by their own fears, were still more cast down at the affliction of those they left behind, who took leave of them with tears and  
 95 lamentations and dismal forebodings, as of men they were never to behold again.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

**Atoned.**  
**Prerogative.**

**Bartered.**  
**Purport.**

**Defrayed.**  
**Absconded.**

**Vanquished.**  
**Foreboding.**

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## CHAPTER X.

### DEPARTURE OF COLUMBUS ON HIS FIRST VOYAGE.

WHEN Columbus set sail on this memorable voyage, he commenced a regular journal, intended for the inspection of the Spanish sovereigns. Like all his other transactions, it evinces how deeply he was impressed with the grandeur and solemnity of  
 5 his enterprise. He proposed to keep it, as he afterward observed, in the manner of the Commentaries of Cæsar.

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84. Confessed himself—partook of the sacrament.—Religious ceremonies,  
 2. Journal.—A daily record,

6. Commentaries.—An account of Cæsar's wars written by Cæsar himself.



It was on Friday, the 3d of August, 1492, early in the morning, that Columbus set sail from the bar of Saltes, a small island in front of the town of Huelva, steering in a southwesterly direction for the Canary Islands, whence it was his intention to strike 10 due west.

The exultation of Columbus at finding himself, after so many years of baffled hope, fairly launched on his grand enterprise, was checked by his want of confidence in the resolution and perseverance of his crews. As long as he remained within reach of 15 Europe, there was no security that in a moment of repentance and alarm they might not renounce the prosecution of the voyage, and insist on a return. Symptoms soon appeared to warrant his apprehensions. On the third day the Pinta made signal of distress; her rudder was discovered to be broken and 20 unhung.

This damaged state of the Pinta, as well as her being in a leaky condition, determined the admiral to touch at the Canary Islands, and seek a vessel to replace her.

They were detained upward of three weeks among these islands, 25 seeking in vain another vessel. They were obliged, therefore, to make a new rudder for the Pinta, and repair her for the voyage.

On losing sight of the last trace of land, the hearts of the crews failed them. They seemed literally to have taken leave 30 of the world. The admiral tried in every way to soothe their distress, and to inspire them with his own glorious anticipations.

He kept two reckonings; one correct, in which the true way of the ship was noted, and which was retained in secret for his 35 own government; in the other, which was open to general inspection, a number of leagues was daily subtracted from the sailing of the ship, so that the crews were kept in ignorance of the real distance they had advanced.

On the 14th of September the voyagers were rejoiced by the 40

sight of what they considered harbingers of land. A heron and a tropical bird, neither of which is supposed to venture far to sea, hovered about the ships.

The crews were all in high spirits ; each ship strove to get in the advance, and every seaman was eagerly on the lookout ; for the sovereigns had promised a pension of ten thousand maravedis to him who should first discover land. Martin Alonzo Pinzon crowded all canvas, and, as the Pinta was a fast sailer, he generally kept the lead. In the afternoon he hailed the admiral and informed him that, from the flight of a great number of birds and from the appearance of the northern horizon, he thought there was land in that direction.

On the following day there were drizzling showers, unaccompanied by wind, which Columbus considered favorable signs ; two boobies also flew on board the ships—birds which, he observed, seldom fly twenty leagues from land.

Notwithstanding his precaution to keep the people ignorant of the distance they had sailed, they were now growing extremely uneasy at the length of the voyage. They had advanced much farther west than ever man had sailed before, and though already beyond the reach of succor, still they continued daily leaving vast tracts of ocean behind them, and pressing onward and onward into that apparently boundless abyss.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Inspection.

Baffled.

Renounce.

Prosecution.

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41. Harbinger.—A forerunner.  
 42. Tropical bird. — The water-wagtail.  
 46. Pension.—A reward. — Ten

- thousand maravedis (mar-a-vā'dees).  
 —Thirty dollars.  
 48. Canvas.—The sails.  
 55. Booby.—A water-fowl.

## CHAPTER XI.

## DISCOVERY OF LAND.

THE situation of Columbus was daily becoming more and more critical. In proportion as he approached the regions where he expected to find land, the impatience of his crews augmented. What was to become of them should their provisions fail ?

Columbus was not ignorant of the mutinous disposition of his 5 crew, but he still maintained a serene and steady countenance ; soothing some with gentle words ; endeavoring to stimulate the pride or avarice of others, and openly menacing the refractory with signal punishment should they do anything to impede the voyage. 10

On the 25th of September the wind again became favorable, and they were able to resume their course directly to the west. While Columbus, his pilot, and several of his experienced mariners were studying the map, and endeavoring to make out from it their actual position, they heard a shout from the Pinta, 15 and looking up, beheld Martin Alonzo Pinzon mounted on the stern of his vessel, crying, " Land ! land ! Señor, I claim my reward !" He pointed at the same time to the southwest, where there was indeed an appearance of land at about twenty-five leagues' distance. Upon this Columbus threw himself on his 20 knees and returned thanks to God ; and Martin Alonzo repeated the *Gloria in excelsis*, in which he was joined by his own crew and that of the admiral.

The morning light, however, put an end to all their hopes, as to a dream. The fancied land proved to be nothing but an even- 25 ing cloud, and had vanished in the night. With dejected hearts they once more resumed their western course, from which Columbus would never have varied, but in compliance with their clamorous wishes.

30 For several days they continued on with the same propitious breeze, tranquil sea, and mild, delightful weather.

Eager to obtain the promised pension, the seamen were continually giving the cry of land, on the least appearance of the kind. To put a stop to these false alarms, which produced continual disappointments, Columbus declared that should any one  
35 give such notice, and land not be discovered within three days afterward, he should thenceforth forfeit all claim to the reward.

Flights of small birds of various colors, some of them such as singing in the fields, came flying about the ships, and then continued  
40 toward the southwest, and others were heard also flying by in the night. The herbage which floated by was fresh and green, as if recently from land, and the air, Columbus observes, was sweet and fragrant as April breezes in Seville.

All these, however, were regarded by the crews as so many delusions beguiling them on to destruction; and when on the evening of the third day they beheld the sun go down upon a shoreless horizon, they broke forth into turbulent clamor. They declaimed against this obstinacy in tempting fate by continuing on into a boundless sea. They insisted upon turning homeward,  
50 and abandoning the voyage as hopeless. Columbus endeavored to pacify them by gentle words and promises of large rewards; but finding that they only increased in clamor, he assumed a decided tone. He told them it was useless to murmur, the expedition had been sent by the sovereigns to seek the Indies,  
55 and, happen what might, he was determined to persevere, until, by the blessing of God, he should accomplish the enterprise.

Columbus was now at open defiance with his crew, and his

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56. Accomplish the enterprise.—It has been asserted by various historians that Columbus, a day or two previous to coming in sight of the New World, capitulated with his mutinous crew, promising, if he did not discover land within three days, to abandon the voyage. Fortunately, the extracts from the journal of Columbus, written from day to day, with guileless simplicity, and all the air of truth, disprove these fables, and show that on the very day previous to his discovery he expressed a peremptory determination to persevere, in defiance of all dangers and difficulties.

situation became desperate. Fortunately the manifestations of the vicinity of land were such on the following day as no longer to admit a doubt. 60

In the evening, when, according to invariable custom on board of the admiral's ship, the mariners had sung the "Salve Regina," or vesper hymn to the Virgin, he made an impressive address to his crew. He pointed out the goodness of God in thus conducting them by soft and favoring breezes across a 65 tranquil ocean, cheering their hopes continually with fresh signs, increasing as their fears augmented, and thus leading and guiding them to a promised land. He now reminded them of the orders he had given on leaving the Canaries, that, after sailing westward seven hundred leagues, they should not make sail after 70 midnight. Present appearances authorized such a precaution. He thought it probable they would make land that very night; he ordered, therefore, a vigilant lookout to be kept from the forecastle, promising to whomsoever should make the discovery a doublet of velvet, in addition to the pension to be given by 75 the sovereigns.

The breeze had been fresh all day, with more sea than usual, and they had made great progress. At sunset they had stood again to the west, and were plowing the waves at a rapid rate, the Pinta keeping the lead, from her superior sailing. The 80 greatest animation prevailed throughout the ships; not an eye was closed that night. As the evening darkened, Columbus took his station on the top of the castle or cabin on the high stern of his vessel, ranging his eye along the dusky horizon, and maintaining an intense and unremitting watch. About ten o'clock 85 he thought he beheld a light glimmering at a great distance. Fearing his eager hopes might deceive him, he called to Pedro Gutierrez, gentleman of the king's bedchamber, and inquired whether he saw such a light; the latter replied in the affirmative. Doubtful whether it might not yet be some delusion of 90 the fancy, Columbus called Rodrigo Sanchez and made the same

inquiry. By the time the latter had ascended the round-house the light had disappeared. They saw it once or twice afterward in sudden and passing gleams; as if it were a torch in the bark  
 95 of a fisherman, rising and sinking with the waves; or in the hand of some person on shore, borne up and down as he walked from house to house. So transient and uncertain were these gleams that few attached any importance to them; Columbus, however, considered them as certain signs of land, and, more-  
 100 over, that the land was inhabited.

They continued their course until two in the morning, when a gun from the Pinta gave the joyful signal of land. It was first descried by a mariner named Rodrigo de Triana; but the reward was afterward adjudged to the admiral, for having pre-  
 105 viously perceived the light. The land was now clearly seen about two leagues distant, whereupon they took in sail and lay to, waiting impatiently for the dawn.

The thoughts and feelings of Columbus in this little space of time must have been tumultuous and intense. At length, in  
 110 spite of every difficulty and danger, he had accomplished his object. The great mystery of the ocean was revealed; his theory, which had been the scoff of sages, was triumphantly established; he had secured to himself a glory durable as the world itself.

A thousand speculations must have swarmed upon him, as,  
 115 with his anxious crews, he waited for the night to pass away, wondering whether the morning light would reveal a savage wilderness, or dawn upon spicy groves, and glittering fanes, and gilded cities, and all the splendor of oriental civilization.

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*Give the meaning of the following words:*

Critical.  
 Augmented.  
 Mutinous.  
 Avarice.

Refractory.  
 Dejected.  
 Fragrant.  
 Turbulent.

Clamor.  
 Declaimed.  
 Pacify.  
 Unremitting.

Transient.  
 Descried.  
 Reveal.  
 Fanes.



## CHAPTER XII.

## FIRST LANDING OF COLUMBUS IN THE NEW WORLD.



LANDING OF COLUMBUS.

It was on Friday morning, the 12th of October, 1492, that Columbus first beheld the New World. As 5 the day dawned he

saw before him a level island, several leagues in extent, and covered with trees like a continual orchard. Though apparently uncultivated, it was populous, for the inhabitants were seen issuing from all parts of the woods and running to the shore. They 10 were perfectly naked, and, as they stood gazing at the ships, appeared by their attitudes and gestures to be lost in astonish-

ment. Columbus made signal for the ships to cast anchor, and the boats to be manned and armed. He entered his own boat, 15 richly attired in scarlet, and holding the royal standard; while Martin Alonzo Pinzon and Vincent Jañez, his brother, put off in company in their boats, each with a banner of the enterprise emblazoned with a green cross, having on either side the letters F. and Y., the initials of the Castilian monarchs Fernando and 20 Ysabel, surmounted by crowns.

As he approached the shore, Columbus, who was disposed for all kinds of agreeable impressions, was delighted with the purity and suavity of the atmosphere, the crystal transparency of the sea, and the extraordinary beauty of the vegetation. He beheld, 25 also, fruits of an unknown kind upon the trees which overhung the shores. On landing he threw himself on his knees, kissed the earth, and returned thanks to God with tears of joy. His example was followed by the rest, whose hearts indeed overflowed with the same feelings of gratitude. Columbus then rising drew 30 his sword, displayed the royal standard, and assembling round him the two captains, the notary of the armament, and the rest who had landed, he took solemn possession in the name of the Castilian sovereigns, giving the island the name of San Salvador. Having complied with the requisite forms and 35 ceremonies, he called upon all present to take the oath of obedience to him, as admiral and viceroy, representing the persons of the sovereigns.

The feelings of the crew now burst forth in the most extravagant transports. They had recently considered themselves devoted 40 men, hurrying forward to destruction; they now looked upon themselves as favorites of fortune, and gave themselves up to the most unbounded joy. They thronged around the admiral with overflowing zeal, some embracing him, others kissing his hands. Those who had been most mutinous and turbulent 45 during the voyage were now most devoted and enthusiastic. Some begged favors of him, as if he had already wealth and honors in his gift. Many abject spirits, who had outraged him by their insolence, now crouched at his feet, begging pardon for

all the trouble they had caused him, and promising the blindest obedience for the future.

50

The natives of the island, when, at the dawn of day, they had beheld the ships hovering on their coast, had supposed them monsters which had issued from the deep during the night. They had crowded to the beach and watched their movements with awful anxiety. Their veering about, apparently without 55 effort, and the shifting and furling of their sails, resembling huge wings, filled them with astonishment. When they beheld their boats approach the shore, and a number of strange beings, clad in glittering steel or raiment of various colors, landing upon the beach, they fled in affright to the woods. Finding, 60 however, that there was no attempt to pursue or molest them, they gradually recovered from their terror, and approached the Spaniards with great awe; frequently prostrating themselves on the earth, and making signs of adoration. During the ceremonies of taking possession, they remained gazing in timid ad- 65 miration at the complexion, the beards, the shining armor and splendid dress of the Spaniards. When they had still further recovered from their fears, they approached the Spaniards, touched their beards, and examined their hands and faces, admiring their whiteness. Columbus was pleased with their gen- 70 tleness and confiding simplicity, and suffered their scrutiny with perfect acquiescence, winning them by his benignity. They now supposed that the ships had sailed out of the crystal firmament which bounded their horizon, or had descended from above on their ample wings, and that these marvellous beings were in- 75 habitants of the skies.

The natives of the island were no less objects of curiosity to the Spaniards, differing as they did from any race of men they

73. *Crystal firmament.*—The sea.

75. *Inhabitants of the skies.*—The idea that the white men came from heaven was universally entertained by the inhabitants of the New World. When in the course of sub-

sequent voyages the Spaniards conversed with the cacique Nicaragua, he inquired how they came down from the skies, whether flying or whether they descended on clouds,

had ever seen. Their appearance gave no promise of either  
80 wealth or civilization, for they were entirely naked, and painted  
with a variety of colors.

As Columbus supposed himself to have landed on an island  
at the extremity of India, he called the natives by the general  
appellation of Indians, which was universally adopted before the  
85 true nature of his discovery was known, and has since been ex-  
tended to all the aboriginals of the New World.

The islanders were friendly and gentle. Their only arms  
were lances, hardened at the end by fire, or pointed with a flint,  
or the teeth or bone of a fish. There was no iron to be seen,  
90 nor did they appear acquainted with its properties; for, when a  
drawn sword was presented to them, they unguardedly took it  
by the edge.

Columbus distributed among them colored caps, glass beads,  
hawks' bells, and other trifles, such as the Portuguese were ac-  
95 customed to trade with among the nations of the Gold Coast of  
Africa. They received them eagerly, hung the beads round  
their necks, and were wonderfully pleased with their finery, and  
with the sound of the bells. The Spaniards remained all day on  
shore, refreshing themselves after their anxious voyage amid the  
100 beautiful groves of the island, and returned on board late in the  
evening, delighted with all they had seen.

On the following morning, at break of day, the shore was  
thronged with the natives; some swam off to the ships, others  
came in light barks which they called canoes, formed of a single  
105 tree, hollowed, and capable of holding from one man to the  
number of forty or fifty. These they managed dexterously  
with paddles, and, if overturned, swam about in the water with  
perfect unconcern, as if in their natural element, righting their  
canoes with great facility, and baling them with calabashes.

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94. *Hawks' bells.*—Bells fastened to the feet of hawks which were formerly used in hunting wild fowls.

109. *Calabashes.*—Scoops made from the fruit of the calabash tree.

The calabashes of the Indians, which served the purposes of glass and earthenware, supplying them with all sorts of domestic utensils, were produced on stately trees of the size of elms,

They were eager to procure more toys and trinkets, not, apparently, from any idea of their intrinsic value, but because everything from the hands of the strangers possessed a supernatural virtue in their eyes, as having been brought from heaven; they even picked up fragments of glass and earthenware as valuable prizes. 110

The avarice of the discoverers was quickly excited by the sight of small ornaments of gold worn by some of the natives in their noses. These the latter gladly exchanged for glass beads and hawks' bells; and both parties exulted in the bargain, no doubt admiring each other's simplicity. As gold, however, was 120 an object of royal monopoly in all enterprises of discovery, Columbus forbade any traffic in it without his express sanction; and he put the same prohibition on the traffic for cotton, reserving to the crown all trade for it, wherever it should be found in any quantity. 125

He inquired of the natives where this gold was procured. They answered him by signs, pointing to the south, where, he understood them, dwelt a king of such wealth that he was served in vessels of wrought gold. He understood, also, that there was land to the south, the southwest, and the northwest, and that the 130 people from the last-mentioned quarter frequently proceeded to the southwest in quest of gold and precious stones, making in their way descents upon the islands, and carrying off the inhabitants.

The island where Columbus had thus, for the first time, set his foot upon the New World was called by the natives Guana- 135 hanè. It still retains the name of San Salvador, which he gave to it, though called by the English Cat Island. The light which he had seen the evening previous to his making land may have been on Watling's Island, which lies a few leagues to the east. San Salvador is one of the great cluster of the Lucayos, or Baha- 140 ma Islands, which stretch southeast and northwest, from the coast of Florida to Hispaniola, covering the northern coast of Cuba.

On the morning of the 14th of October the admiral set off at daybreak with the boats of the ships to reconnoitre the island, directing his course to the northeast. The coast was sur- 145



rounded by a reef of rocks, within which there was depth of water and sufficient harbor to receive all the ships in Christendom. The entrance was very narrow; within there were several sand-banks, but the water was as still as in a pool.

150 The island appeared throughout to be well wooded, with streams of water, and a large lake in the center. As the boats proceeded, they passed two or three villages, the inhabitants of which, men as well as women, ran to the shores, throwing themselves on the ground, lifting up their hands and eyes, either giving  
155 thanks to heaven, or worshiping the Spaniards as supernatural beings. They ran along parallel to the boats, calling after the Spaniards, and inviting them by signs to land, offering them various fruits and vessels of water. Finding, however, that the boats continued on their course, many threw them-  
160 selves into the sea and swam after them, and others followed in canoes. The admiral received them all with kindness, giving them glass beads and other trifles, which were received with transport as celestial presents, for the invariable idea of the savages was that the white men had come from the skies.

165 In this way they pursued their course until they came to a small peninsula, which with two or three days' labor might be separated from the mainland and surrounded with water, and was therefore specified by Columbus as an excellent situation for a fortress. On this were six Indian cabins, surrounded by groves  
170 and gardens as beautiful as those of Castile. The sailors being wearied with rowing, and the island not appearing to the admiral of sufficient importance to induce colonization, he returned to the ships, taking seven of the natives with him, that they might acquire the Spanish language and serve as interpreters.

175 Having taken in a supply of wood and water, they left the island of San Salvador the same evening, the admiral being impatient to arrive at the wealthy country to the south, which he flattered himself would prove the famous island of Cipango.

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178. *Cipango*.—A name meaning the same as Japan—the land of the rising sun.



*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Populous.	Transparency.	Veering.	Dexterously.
Attired.	Requisite.	Adoration.	Baling.
Emblazoned.	Transports.	Scrutiny.	Supernatural.
Surmounted.	Abject.	Acquiescence.	Quest.
Suavity.	Hovering.	Aboriginals.	Interpreters.

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## CHAPTER XIII.

### EXPLORATION—DESERTION OF PINZON—SHIPWRECK.

ON the 12th of November, Columbus turned his course to the east-south-east, to follow back the direction of the coast. This may be considered another critical change in his voyage, which had a great effect upon his subsequent discoveries. He had proceeded far within what is called the old channel, between Cuba 5 and the Bahamas. In two or three days more he would have discovered his mistake in supposing Cuba a part of terra firma, an error in which he continued to the day of his death. It was sufficient glory for Columbus, however, to have discovered a new world. Its more golden regions were reserved to give 10 splendor to succeeding enterprises.

On the 19th Columbus again put to sea. The wind continuing obstinately adverse and the sea rough, he put his ship about toward evening of the 20th, making signals for the other vessels to follow him. His signals were unattended to by the Pinta, 15 which was considerably to the eastward. Columbus repeated the signals, but they were still unattended to. Night coming on, he shortened sail and hoisted signal lights to the masthead, thinking Pinzon would yet join him, which he could easily do, having the wind astern; but when the morning dawned the Pinta 20 was no longer to be seen.

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7. **Terra firma.**—The solid earth ; the mainland as distinguished from an island.

Columbus was disquieted by this circumstance. Pinzon was a veteran navigator, accustomed to hold a high rank among his nautical associates. Several misunderstandings and disputes  
25 had accordingly occurred between them in the course of the voyage, and when Columbus saw Pinzon thus parting company, without any appointed rendezvous, he suspected either that he intended to take upon himself a separate command and prosecute the enterprise in his own name, or hasten back to Spain  
30 and bear off the glory of the discovery.

Columbus continued for several days coasting the residue of Cuba, extolling the magnificence, freshness, and verdure of the scenery, the purity of the rivers, and the number and commodiousness of the harbors.

35 Though the whole country was solitary and deserted, Columbus consoled himself with the idea that there must be populous towns in the interior.

The admiral dispatched nine stout-hearted, well-armed men, to seek the village, accompanied by a native of Cuba as an  
40 interpreter. They found it in a fine valley, on the banks of a beautiful river. It contained one thousand houses, but the inhabitants fled as they approached. The interpreter overtook them, and assured them of the goodness of these strangers, who had descended from the skies, and went about the world making  
45 precious and beautiful presents.

The Indians now conducted the Spaniards to their houses, and set before them cassava bread, fish, roots, and fruits of various kinds. They brought also great numbers of domesticated parrots, and indeed offered freely whatever they possessed.

50 On the morning of the 24th of December Columbus set sail from Port St. Thomas before sunrise, and steered to the eastward. At eleven o'clock at night, being Christmas eve, Columbus retired to rest, not having slept the preceding night.

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31-34. Columbus found no gold, but discovered the home of the potato and tobacco plant.

47. *Cassava*.—A food-substance resembling tapioca.

No sooner had he retired than the steersman gave the helm in charge of one of the ship-boys, and went to sleep. The rest of the 55 mariners who had the watch took like advantage of the absence of Columbus, and in a little while the whole crew was buried in sleep. In the mean time the treacherous currents which run swiftly along this coast carried the vessel quietly, but with force, upon a sand-bank. The heedless boy had not noticed the break- 60 ers, although they made a roaring that might have been heard a league. No sooner, however, did he feel the rudder strike, and hear the tumult of the rushing sea, than he began to cry for aid. Columbus, whose careful thoughts never permitted him to sleep profoundly, was the first on deck. 65

It was too late to save the ship, the current having set her more upon the bank. Fortunately the weather continued calm, otherwise the ship must have gone to pieces, and the whole crew might have perished amid the currents and break- 70 ers.

The chief judge of the armament and the king's butler were immediately sent on shore as envoys to the cacique, to inform him of the intended visit of the admiral, and of his disastrous shipwreck.

The habitation of the cacique was about a league and a half 75 from the wreck. When he heard of the misfortune of his guest, he manifested the utmost affliction, and even shed tears. He immediately sent all his people, with all the canoes, large and small, that could be mustered; and so active were they in their assistance, that in a little while the vessel was unloaded. The 80 cacique himself, and his brother and relatives, rendered all the aid in their power, both on sea and land, keeping vigilant guard that everything should be conducted with order, and the property secured from injury or theft.

Never, in a civilized country, were the vaunted rights of hos- 85 pitality more scrupulously observed than by this uncultivated savage.

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72. *Cacique* (ka-seek').—An Indian chief.

Guacanagari dined on board of the caravel with the admiral, after which he invited him to visit his residence.

90 After the collation, Guacanagari conducted Columbus to the beautiful groves which surrounded his residence. They were attended by upward of a thousand of the natives, who performed several national games and dances which Guacanagari had ordered, to amuse the melancholy of his guest.

95 Columbus assured him of the protection of the Castilian monarchs, for he let him know that he had weapons far more tremendous, against which there was no defense. In proof of this he ordered a Lombard, or heavy cannon, and an arquebus, to be discharged.

100 Being told that the Spaniards would defend them with these arms against their dreaded enemies, the Caribs, their alarm was changed into exultation, considering themselves under the protection of the sons of heaven, who had come from the skies armed with thunder and lightning.

105 When the Spanish mariners looked back upon their own toilsome and painful life, and reflected on the cares and hardships that must still be their lot if they returned to Europe, it is no wonder that they regarded with a wistful eye the easy and idle existence of these Indians. Wherever they went they met with

110 caressing hospitality. They saw gold glittering around them, to be had without labor, and every enjoyment to be procured without cost. Captivated by these advantages, many of the seamen represented to the admiral the difficulties and sufferings they must encounter on a return voyage, where so many would  
115 be crowded in a small caravel, and entreated permission to remain in the island.

The solicitude expressed by many of his people to be left behind, added to the friendly and pacific character of the natives, now suggested to Columbus the idea of forming the germ of a  
120 future colony. The wreck of the caravel would afford materials

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88. **Guacanagari.** — Pronounced  
gwā-cū-nā-gā re.

98. **Arquebus** (ār'qwe-būs). — A  
kind of hand gun.

to construct a fortress, which might be defended by her guns and supplied with her ammunition ; and he could spare provisions enough to maintain a small garrison for a year.

No sooner did this idea break upon the mind of Columbus than he set about accomplishing it with his accustomed promptness and celerity. The wreck was broken up and brought piecemeal to shore ; and a site chosen, and preparations made for the erection of a tower.

The fortress being finished, he gave it, as well as the adjacent village and the harbor, the name of La Navidad, or The Nativity, in memorial of their having escaped from the shipwreck on Christmas day. Many volunteered to remain on the island, from whom he selected thirty-nine of the most able and exemplary, and among them a physician, ship-carpenter, calker, cooper, tailor, and gunner, all expert at their several callings.

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*Give the meaning of the following words :*

Astern.	Breakers.	Scrupulously.	Adjacent.
Rendezvous.	Envoys.	Captivated.	Nativity.
Extolling.	Mustered.	Pacific.	Exemplary
Treacherous.	Vigilant.	Garrison.	Calker.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE DEPARTURE FOR SPAIN—MEETING AND PARTING OF THE PINTA—EXPERIENCE ON VOYAGE—RECEPTION AT COURT.

It was on the 4th of January that Columbus set sail from La Navidad on his return to Spain. The wind being contrary, they were detained for two days in a large bay to the west of the promontory. On the 6th they again made sail with a land breeze, and, weathering the cape, advanced ten leagues, when the wind again

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5. Weathering the cape.—Passing between the cape and the wind.

turned to blow freshly from the east. At this time a sailor, stationed at the masthead to look out for rocks, cried out that he beheld the Pinta at a distance. The certainty of the fact gladdened the heart of the admiral, and had an animating effect  
10 throughout the ship; for it was a joyful event to the mariners once more to meet with their comrades, and to have a companion bark in their voyage through these lonely seas.

The Pinta came sweeping toward them, directly before the wind. On their first interview, Pinzon endeavored to excuse his  
15 desertion, alleging that he had been compelled to part company by stress of weather, and had ever since been seeking to rejoin the admiral. Columbus listened passively but dubiously to his apologies; and the suspicions he had conceived appeared to be warranted by subsequent information.

20 The trade-winds which had been so propitious to Columbus on his outward voyage, were equally adverse to him on his return. On the 12th of February, as they were flattering themselves with soon coming in sight of land, the wind came on to blow violently, with a heavy sea; they still kept their course to  
25 the east, but with great labor and peril. The Pinta was soon lost sight of in the darkness of the night. As the day dawned, the sea presented a frightful waste of wild broken waves, lashed into fury by the gale; he looked round anxiously for the Pinta, but she was nowhere to be seen.

30 During this long and awful conflict of the elements, the mind of Columbus was a prey to the most distressing anxiety. He feared that the Pinta had foundered in the storm. In such case the whole history of his discovery, the secret of the New World, depended upon his own feeble bark, and one surge of the ocean  
35 might bury it forever in oblivion.

On the morning of the 15th, at daybreak, the cry of land was given by a mariner in the maintop. The transports of the crew, at once more gaining sight of the Old World, were almost equal

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20. Trade-winds.—Winds in the torrid zone which blow from one direction throughout the year.



to those experienced on first beholding the New. A nearer approach proved it to be an island. 40

On sending the boat to land, Columbus ascertained the island to be St. Mary's, the most southern of the Azores, and a possession of the crown of Portugal.

Columbus remained two days at the island of St. Mary's. The wind veering, he set sail on the 24th of February, and had 45 pleasant weather until the 27th, when, being within one hundred and twenty-five leagues of Cape St. Vincent, he again encountered contrary gales and a boisterous sea.

After experiencing several days of stormy and adverse weather, about midnight on Saturday, the 2d of March, the caravel was 50 struck by a squall of wind which rent all her sails.

In the first watch of this fearful night the seamen gave the usually welcome cry of land, but it now only increased the general alarm. Thus the very land they had so earnestly desired was a terror to them. 55

At daybreak on the 4th of March they found themselves at the mouth of the Tagus. Though entertaining a strong distrust of the good-will of Portugal, the still prevailing tempest left Columbus no alternative but to run in for shelter; he accordingly anchored, about three o'clock, to the great joy of the crew, who 60 returned thanks to God for their escape from so many perils.

The inhabitants came off from various parts of the shore, congratulating them upon what they considered a miraculous preservation. They had been watching the vessel the whole morning with great anxiety, and putting up prayers for her safety. 65 The oldest mariners of the place assured Columbus they had never known so tempestuous a winter; many vessels had remained for months in port, weather-bound, and there had been numerous shipwrecks.

Immediately on his arrival Columbus dispatched a courier to 70 the King and Queen of Spain, with tidings of his discovery. He wrote also to the King of Portugal, then at Valparaiso.

On the 8th of March a cavalier came with a letter from King John, congratulating Columbus on his arrival, and inviting him  
75 to the court, which was then at Valparaiso, about nine leagues from Lisbon. The king, with his usual magnificence, issued orders at the same time that everything which the admiral required for himself, his crew or his vessel, should be furnished promptly and abundantly, without cost.

60 Columbus set forth that very evening for Valparaiso, accompanied by his pilot. On approaching the royal residence, the principal cavaliers of the king's household came forth to meet him, and attended him with great ceremony to the palace. His reception by the monarch was worthy of an enlightened  
85 prince.

Columbus, after being treated with distinguished attention, was escorted back to his ship by a numerous train of cavaliers of the court. Putting to sea on the 13th of March, he arrived  
90 safely at the bar of Saltes on sunrise of the 15th, and at mid-day entered the harbor of Palos; whence he had sailed on the 3d of August in the preceding year, having taken not quite seven months and a half to accomplish this most momentous of all maritime enterprises.

The triumphant return of Columbus was a prodigious event in  
95 the history of the little port of Palos, where everybody was more or less interested in the fate of his expedition.

It is a singular coincidence, which appears to be well authenticated, that on the very evening of the arrival of Columbus at Palos, and while the peals of triumph were still ringing from its  
100 towers, the Pinta, commanded by Martin Alonzo Pinzon, likewise entered the river. After her separation from the admiral in the storm, she had been driven before the gale into the Bay of Biscay, and had made the port of Bayonne. Doubting whether Columbus had survived the tempest, Pinzon had im-  
105 mediately written to the sovereigns, giving information of the discovery he had made, and had requested permission to come to court and communicate the particulars in person. As soon as the weather permitted, he had again set sail, anticipating a

triumphant reception in his native port of Palos. When, on entering the harbor, he beheld the vessel of the admiral riding at anchor, and learnt the enthusiasm with which he had been received, the heart of Pinzon died within him. Getting into his boat, therefore, he landed privately and kept out of sight until he heard of the admiral's departure. He then returned to his home, broken in health and deeply dejected, considering all the honors and eulogiums heaped upon Columbus as so many reproaches on himself. The reply of the sovereigns to his letter at length arrived. It was of a reproachful tenor, and forbade his appearance at court. This letter completed his humiliation, the anguish of his feeling gave virulence to his bodily malady, and in a few days he died, a victim to deep chagrin.

Great was the agitation of the inhabitants of Palos when they beheld one of the ships standing up the river; but when they learned that she returned in triumph from the discovery of a world, the whole community broke forth into transports of joy. When Columbus landed, the multitude thronged to see and welcome him, and a grand procession was formed to the principal church, to return thanks to God for so signal a discovery made by the people of that place—forgetting, in their exultation, the thousand difficulties they had thrown in the way of the enterprise.

At the court he was treated with like honor, being addressed as "Don Christopher Columbus, our admiral of the ocean sea, and viceroy and governor of the islands discovered in the Indies."

Those who had treated him with contumely during his long course of solicitation now sought to efface the remembrance of it by adulations. Every one who had given him a little cold countenance, or a few courtly smiles, now arrogated to himself the credit of having been a patron and of having promoted the discovery of the New World.

About the middle of April Columbus arrived at Barcelona, where every preparation had been made to give him a solemn and magnificent reception. His entrance into this noble city has been compared to one of those triumphs which the Romans

145 were accustomed to decree to conquerors. First were paraded the Indians, painted according to their savage fashion, and decorated with their national ornaments of gold. After these were borne various kinds of live parrots, together with stuffed birds and animals of unknown species, and rare plants supposed to be  
 150 of precious qualities; while great care was taken to make a conspicuous display of Indian coronets, bracelets, and other decorations of gold, which might give an idea of the wealth of the newly-discovered regions. After this followed Columbus on horseback, surrounded by a brilliant cavalcade of Spanish  
 155 chivalry. The streets were almost impassable from the countless multitude; the windows and balconies were crowded with the fair; the very roofs were covered with spectators. It seemed as if the public eye could not be sated with gazing on these trophies of an unknown world, or on the remarkable man by whom  
 160 it had been discovered.

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*Give the meaning of the following words:*

Stress.	Surge.	Momentous.	Humiliation.
Passively.	Transports.	Dejected.	Virulence.
Apologies.	Courier.	Reproaches.	Malady.
Foundered.	Escorted.	Tenor.	Arrogated.

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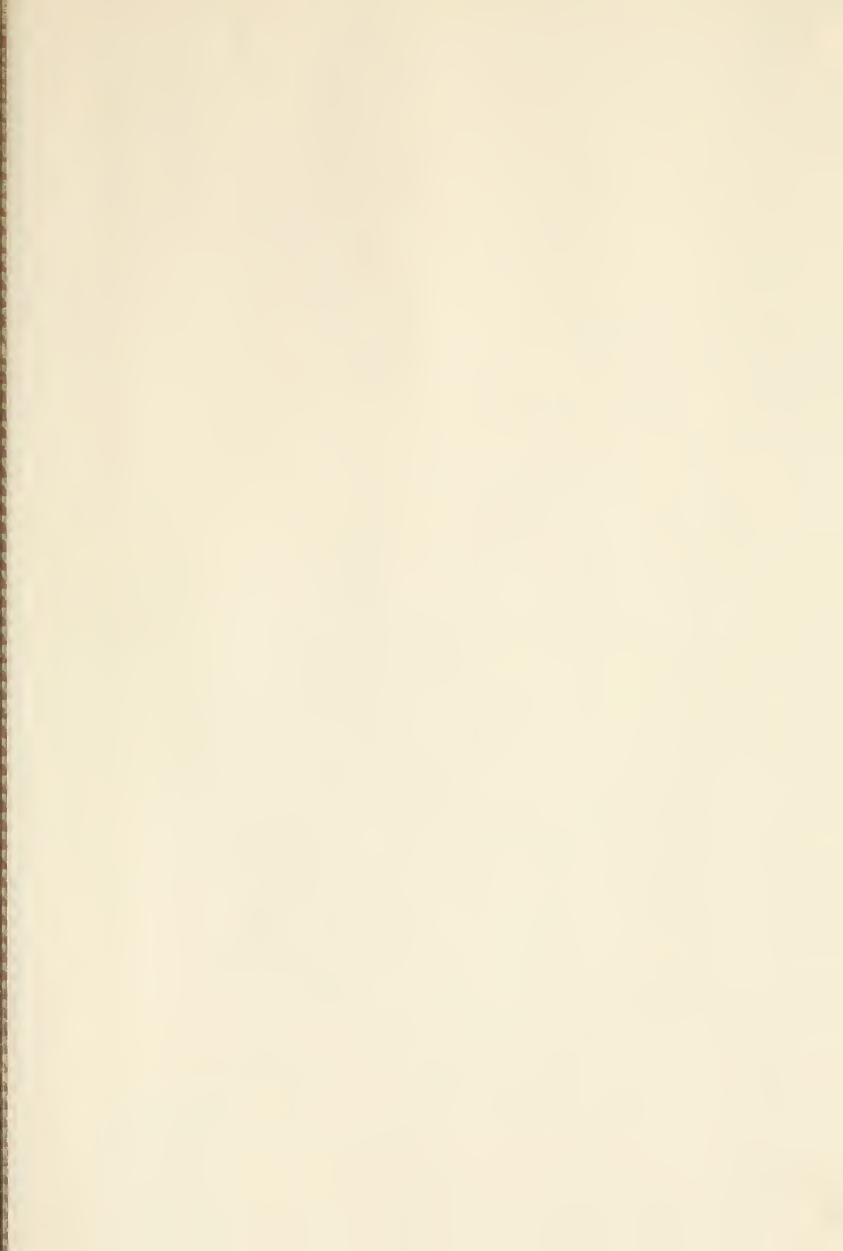
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